

Read 14 March 1711
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England Company of Mine Adventurers

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Enacted 9 Anne, Public Acts, c. 24 26.

**A BILL for the Relief of the Creditors
and Proprietors of the Company of the MINE ADVENTURERS,
by Establishing a Method for settling the Differences between
the Company and their Creditors, and for Uniting them, in
order to an effectual Working of the Mines of the said
Company.**



Whereas the Governor and Company of the *Mine Adventurers* of *Eng-land* (by the great Expences in Working and Manufacturing their Mines and Minerals, and by other Charges incident to so great and difficult an Undertaking; and by the undue Accounts, and other indirect Practices of some who acted for or under the said Company; and by reason their Mines and Stock have not been managed to the best Advantage and Benefit of the said Company) have contracted so great a Debt, that by their Stock or Produce of the said Mines, or Sale or Mortgage thereof, the said Company is altogether unable to pay the same.

And whereas by the unhappy Differences and Disputes that have arisen amongst the Members of the said Company, and also between the said Company and their Creditors, the Working and Managing of the said Mines is almost totally interrupted, whereby the large Sums of Money expended in bringing them to their present State and Condition, are in great Danger of being intirely lost, and the Mines themselves forfeited.

And whereas the Mines belonging to the said Company are so Rich and Valuable, that if the same were Settled and Established under good Management and a regular Constitution, they might, besides answering the Charges of Working them, turn to the full Satisfaction of all Persons interested or concerned therein, and likewise great Benefit would accrue to the Publick by so profitable a Manufactory.

And whereas an Expedient hath been proposed for satisfying the Debts, and composing the Differences of the said Company and their Creditors, by an Union or Coalition of their respective Debts and Interests, in and upon the said Mines, under one Denomination; and for raising a Stock for effectually Working and Manufacturing the said Mines and Minerals; and for discovering all unwarrantable Practices that have been therein, and for preventing the like for the future, by settling the Management under a more regular Establishment. It is therefore humbly Pray'd, that it may be Enacted, and be it Enacted by the QUEEN's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Consent and Advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all Grants, Contracts, Bargains, Sales, Leases, Mortgages, Conveyances and Assurances made of any Mines, Minerals, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Stock, Goods and Chattels by the said Governor and Company of *Mine Adventurers* of *England* to any Person or Persons whatsoever, since the time the said Governor and Company of *Mine Adventurers* of *England* first stop'd or postponed Payment of their Bills or Bonds, or by any Person or Persons Seized or Possessed of any Mines, Minerals, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Stock, Goods and Chattels, in Trust for the said Governor and Company of *Mine Adventurers* of *England*, shall, and are hereby declared to be absolutely Void and of none Effect.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all new Shares of and in the said Mines, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, and Stock of the said Company of *Mine Adventurers* of *England*, made, created or attempted to be made and created, by the said Governor and Company since they were incorporated, and over and above the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares constituted and allowed by their Charter, and accepted or intended to be accepted in Lieu and Discharge of Principal Money and Annuities due from the said Company, shall be absolutely Null and Void to all Intents and Purposes; and the Persons entitled to such new created Shares, shall be deemed and taken as Creditors for the same Principal Money and Annuities, and for the Interest and Arrears thereof, to all Intents and Purposes, as if their said Principal Money and Annuities had not been converted into such new Shares.

Provided

And be it therefore Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the twentieth Day of April One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eleven, the said Creditors of the said Company of *Mine Adventurers of England*, by Bills, Bonds, Notes, or other Contracts of the said Company, and the Creditors by Original Principal Money and Annuities granted in lieu thereof, shall be, and are, by vertue of this Act, united with, and become Members of the said Company of *Mine Adventurers of England*; and shall be Partners with the Proprietors of the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, into which the Mines and Stock of the said Company are divided, upon the Terms, and according to the Rules, Directions and Appointments hereinafter Enacted and Declared; and shall enjoy all the Rights, Privileges, Profits and Advantages of Members of the said Company in equal Proportion to their respective Interests hereby intended to be united with the said Proprietors of the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, as any of the former Partners could or might have enjoyed the same, by reason of their respective Shares in the said Company. And all the Profits arising from the said Mines and Stock of the said Company, and from the Manufacturing of Oar and Produce of the said Mines, and all the Benefit and Advantage of the Effects and Estate of the said Company, shall be for the equal and common Benefit of all the Members of the said Company intended to be hereby United, according to every Member's Proportion and Interest in the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, settled according to the Terms of the Union hereby Established, and not for the private Advantage of any particular Person or Persons whatsoever.

And, for the more effectual establishing the Means and Terms of the Uniting the said Company and their said Creditors, in order to the Working the said Mines of the said Company for the Relief of the said Creditors, and others concern'd in the said Undertaking; and for the publick Advantage of this Kingdom, be it farther Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor and Company of *Mine Adventurers of England*, shall, on or before the Second Day of *May* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eleven, call a general Assembly or Meeting of the said Governor and Company, and of the said Creditors beforemention'd, to be held within the Space of Twenty Days next after the said Second Day of *May* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eleven; at such convenient Place within the City of *London*, as the said Governor and Company shall appoint, and give publick Notice of at least Ten Days before such Meeting in the *London Gazette*, who shall, and are hereby required quietly to Assemble and Meet together at the Time and Place so to be appointed, and that then and there, and every Member of the said Company having in his own Right, and not in Trust for any other Person or Persons, five Shares, or more, of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, and every Creditor of the said Company, for the Sum of One Hundred Pounds, or more by the said Company's Bills, Bonds, Notes, or other Contracts, or by Original Principal Money; and every Proprietor of an Annuity of Six Pounds *per Ann.* or more, may and shall Assemble and Meet together by Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, and then and there shall proceed to chuse by the Majority of the Voices of the said Persons, then and there present, out of the Members of the said Company and Creditors aforesaid, a Deputy-Governor and Twelve Directors, each having on the Twenty Fourth Day of *June*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ten, and at the time of such Election in his own Right, and not in Trust for any other Person or Persons, either Twenty of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, or more, or an Annuity or Annuities granted by the said Company, of Twenty Four Pounds *per Ann.* or being Creditor of the said Company, in manner as aforesaid, for four Hundred Pounds or more, or having so much of the said several Interests (as computing each Share at Twenty Pounds, and an Annuity of Six Pounds *per Ann.* at One Hundred Pounds) together, will amount to four Hundred Pounds, or more, to be the Deputy Governor and Directors of the said Company for the Year ensuing, and until a new Deputy-Governor and other Directors shall be elected to succeed them, and to put in Execution the Powers herein after mentioned and appointed by this Act; and before any Person be admitted to give his Vote for the Choice of such Deputy-Governor or Directors, he shall take his Corporal Oath before the Governor, or his Deputy for that Purpose appointed, then present (which Oath the Governor, or such his Deputy, is hereby impowered and required to Administer) that he hath either Five Shares, or more, of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, or an Annuity of six Pounds *per Ann.* or more, by Grant of the said Company, in his own Right, at the time of such Election, and not as Trustee for any other Person; or that he is a real Creditor of the said Company for One Hundred Pounds or more, in manner as aforesaid; and that he was entitled to such Shares or Annuity, or was a Creditor for One Hundred Pounds, or more, in manner as aforesaid, on the said Twenty Fourth Day of *June*: And in like manner, every Person so elected to be the Deputy-Governor

Governor or Director, shall, before he act as Deputy-Governor, or a Director, take his Corporal Oath before the said Governor, or his Deputy, as aforesaid; that he in his own Right at the Time of his Election is, and on the said Twenty Fourth Day of June was entitled either to Twenty, or more Shares of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, or to an Annuity of Twenty Four Pounds *per Ann.* or more, granted by the said Company; or to Four Hundred Pounds, or more, as a real Creditor of the said Company, or to so much of the said several Interests as together amounts to Four Hundred Pounds or more, in manner aforesaid; and for the due and faithful Discharge of his Office and Duty, shall take an Oath in the Words, or to the Effect following, "I A, B, will truly and faithfully execute the Office and Duty of Deputy-Governor (or of one of the Directors) of the Corporation known by the Name of the Governor and Company of *Mine Adventurers of England*, in every respect, according to the best of my Skill and Understanding, and as I shall judge most for the Advantage of the said Company: So help me God. And the said Deputy-Governor and Twelve Directors, being so Elected, Chosen and Sworn, shall continue in the Office of Deputy-Governor and Directors for the Year ensuing, and until a new Deputy-Governor and other Directors shall be Elected and Admitted to succeed them in the said Office, unless they, or any of them shall happen to die, or to be removed, or be disqualified for the said Office of Deputy-Governor or Director; and that in case any Person or Persons who shall be Elected Deputy-Governor, Director or Directors, according to the Directions of this Act, shall refuse to take such Oath as before appointed, or shall cease to have an Interest or Stock in the said Company, equivalent to the Interest and Stock hereby before required, to qualifie such Person for a Deputy-Governor or Director, then it shall, and may be lawful for the Governor and Company, and Creditors aforesaid, at any other general Assembly or Meeting of the said Company and Creditors, to be held within Fourteen Days next after the Death of such Director or Directors, or his or their Refusal to take such Oath, or his or their ceasing to have such Stock or Interest as is hereby before appointed and required, to Elect out of the Members of the said Company, or out of the said Creditors, some other Person or Persons, in like manner as before directed and appointed, qualified to succeed in the Room or Place of him or them so disabled, and to continue Deputy-Governor, Director or Directors, for the remainder of the Year or Time for which such Deputy-Governor, Director or Directors, in whose Place he or they shall succeed, were Elected. And from, and after the said Deputy-Governor and Twelve Directors, shall be duly Elected and Sworn in manner aforesaid, into the due Execution of the said Office, all the Power and Authority of the Persons that were the former Deputy-Governor and Directors of the said Company at the time of this Election, shall cease and be absolutely void; and they shall no longer continue to act as Deputy-Governor and Directors, or have any thing to do with the Management or Direction of the Affairs or Business of the said Company, unless any of them shall be again chosen to be Deputy-Governor or Directors, in manner as is herein before directed. But the said Deputy-Governor and Twelve Directors chosen in pursuance of this Act, shall be the only Deputy-Governor and Directors of the said Company, and shall have the Management and Directions of the Affairs of the said Company, in as full and ample manner as the said former Deputy-Governor and Directors had, or might have had, either by vertue of the Original Settlement of the said *Mine Adventurers*, or by Her Majesty's most Gracious Charter to them granted; which said Charter in all things not contrary and repugnant to the several Matters herein directed, shall be as valid, and in as full Force as if this Act had not been made, and shall from and after their Election be deemed and taken to be the only Deputy-Governor and Directors of the said Company, according to the said Charter; which said Directors are hereby Authorized and Required to cause on or before the Fifteenth Day of May, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eleven, a Book or Books to be provided, to enter the Claims of all the said Creditors, by Bills, Bonds, Notes, or other Contracts of the said Company, and of all Proprietors of Principal Money, Annuities or Shares of and in the said Company, and the Nature and Certainty of the respective Debts and Interests by them claimed: And that from the said Fifteenth Day of May, unto the Sixteenth Day of July next following, Attendance shall be given daily, and every Day (*Sundays* and Holydays excepted) at such convenient Place as the said Directors shall appoint within the City of London, for the Registering and Entering of all such Claims and Demands: And the said Directors are hereby farther required before the said Fifth Day of May, to appoint a proper Place within the City of London, and a proper Officer to enter and enter fairly and legibly in Writing in such Book or Books all such Claims and Demands as shall be made or delivered in by any such Creditors, Proprietors of Principal Money, Annuities or Shares, or by any Person or Persons by them Authorized, to such Officer, and the Sums of Money, Stock and Interest they so respectively claim: And that within Ten Days next after the said Sixteenth Day of July, the said Directors do cause to be Printed a List of the Names of all such Persons, as shall by such Claims, or otherwise, appear to be real Creditors, Proprietors of Principal Money, Annuities or Shares of, and in the said Company, and the Sums to them respectively due; and shall cause One such Printed List to be delivered to any of the said Creditors, Proprietors of Principal Money, Annuities, or Shares, who shall come or send for the same; and the said Creditors, Proprietors of Principal Money, Annuities, or Shares, are hereby required, on or before the said Sixteenth Day of July, to deliver, or cause to be delivered in Writing

ing, fairly and legibly writ under the Hand of such Creditor, Proprietor of Principal Money, Annuities or Shares, or some other Person by him or them duly Authorized to such Officer or his Agent or Agents, at such Place as shall be by the said Directors appointed a just and true Account of his Debt, Claim or Demand upon the said Company. And the said Directors are hereby further Authorized and Required to employ one or more able Accomptant or Accomptants (who shall take the Oath herein after directed and prescribed) who by the Examination of the said Claims, and of the Books of the said Company, shall cast up, according to the best of his or their Skill, what Sum or Sums of Money are due to the said Creditors, by Bills, Bonds, Notes, or other Contracts of the said Company, and all Arrears of Interest thereof to them respectively due, unto the Twenty Fifth Day of *March*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eleven; who shall in like manner cast up what Sum or Sums of Money is or are due to any Person or Persons for Original Principal Money, and for the Interest thereof, unto the said Twenty Fifth Day of *March*; and what Sum or Sums of Money is or are due to the respective Persons entitled to any Annuity or Annuities, granted by the said Company, unto the said Twenty Fifth Day of *March*; and the said Accomptant or Accomptants reducing every Annuity of Six Pounds *per Ann.* to its Original Value of One Hundred Pounds, and so in Proportion for an Annuity of a greater or lesser Annual Sum, shall compute and cast up the whole Sum as shall be due to the respective Persons for the Original Value and Arrears of such Annuities. And the said Accomptant or Accomptants, valuing the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, at Twenty Pounds *per Share*, shall compute and cast up the Sum the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares shall amount unto at that Valuation: And the said Accomptant and Accomptants are hereby further Authorized and Required to take off and abate one Third Part of the said Sum the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares shall amount unto at the Valuation aforesaid; and to take off and abate one Fifth Part of the said Sum as shall appear to be due for Original Principal Money, and the Interest thereof, and for Arrears of the said Annuities, and for the said Annuities reduced back again into Principal Money; and to add the said Sums to which the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, and Original Principal Money and Interest thereof, and the said Arrears of Annuities, and the said Annuities, reduced into Principal Money, amount unto after such Deductions and Abatements made as before directed to the total Sum, to which the Debt due by Bills, Bonds, Notes, and other Contracts, and the Interest thereof amount unto, which is to be computed and allowed in Full, without any Abatement or Diminution; and shall by dividing the said total Sum by the Number of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, adjust and ascertain the Sum of Money every Share will be equal unto, so divided as aforesaid; and to what Number, Part or Parts of a Share or Shares in the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, every Person, as well Partners as Creditors of the said Company, ought to have assigned or made over to them respectively, in Proportion to their former and respective Interest in, or Debts or Demands upon the said Company, computed, divided and ascertained, as before by this Act is directed and appointed.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That as soon as the Calculation and Account of what Number of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares or of what Part or Parts of a Share of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, shall be proportionable and equivalent to the several and respective Interests of the several and respective Creditors and Partners, according to the Manner and Terms of the Union hereby prescribed, the said Directors shall cause a List or Account to be Printed of the Names of the respective Persons that will be entitled to such Share, or Part or Parts of a Share and the Interest they severally and respectively were entitled unto before, either as a Creditor or Partner; and what Number of Shares of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, or what Part or Parts of a Share will be equivalent, according to the Terms of the hereby intended Union to their former Debts, Interest or Stock in the said Company; and shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, One such Printed List to any of the said Creditors or Partners of the said Company, who shall send or come for the same: And the said Directors are hereby required to give publick Notice in the *London Gazette* as soon as such List is ready to be delivered out, and of the Place where the said Partners and Creditors may receive such List or Account if they come or send for the same. And the said Directors shall, within Forty Days after Publication of such List or Account, cause a Book or Books to be prepared, and shall cause to be therein entred in a fair Hand and Alphabetical Order, the Names, Surnames, Qualities and Addition of the respective Persons, who shall, according to the Terms of this Union, be intitled to the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, and to their Names shall add the Number, Part or Parts of such Share or Shares, as each Creditor or Partner shall be entitled unto, according to the Terms of the Union hereby intended, in Lieu and Satisfaction of their former Debt or Demand, Stock or Interest, in or from the said Company: And the said Book or Books shall be Signed by the said Twelve Directors, or the major Part of them, and by the said Accomptant or Accomptants, and shall be delivered over to such Person or Persons as shall be appointed to keep the Transfer-Book or Books, or to the Book-Keeper of the said Company; and the said Shares, or Part or Parts of a Share Entred in manner hereby directed, shall, Assignable or Transferable by such Person or Persons respectively, to whose Names they are Entred in the said Book or Books, or by their Executors or Administrators in the Transfer-Book or Books of the said Company, in such Manner as the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares might have been

being Assigned or Transferred in the said Books of the said Company, by vertue of their former Settlement and Charter; and all Alienations, Transfers and Assignments made in any other manner, shall be void, except only such Shares as shall happen to be devised to any Person by Will, or shall come to any Person by being Executor or Administrator of any Person deceased: And every Person so to be Named and Registered in the said Book, so to be Transmitted, as aforesaid, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall have, receive, enjoy, and be intitled to have, receive and enjoy the several and respective Shares, and Part or Parts of Share or Shares in the said Mines and Stock of the said Company (so to be entred to his Name, in Lieu and Satisfaction of his former Stock in the said Company) in Satisfaction and Discharge of all his former Debts or Demands, from or upon the said Company.

Provided always, That after the Death or Resignation of the most Noble *Thomas Duke of Leeds*, present Governor of the said Company, the Governor shall be annually chosen in manner as by the Charter of the said Company is directed, out of the Members of the said Company, having Ten of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares in his own Right, who shall continue in the said Office, for the Space of one whole Year, and until some other fit Person be Elected and Sworn into the said Office; and no Member of the said Company shall be Governor thereof above one Year in four; and from and after such new Division and Distribution of the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, made in manner as before directed, every Member of the said Company, intitled to One of the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, according to the Entries or Registries in the said Company's Books, shall have a Vote at all general Meetings or Assemblies of the said Company, and for the Election of a Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, as often as they are by the said Charter directed to be chosen; and every Member of the said Company having Six of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, shall be capable to be Deputy-Governor; and every Member having Four of the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, shall be capable of being a Director of the said Company; but no Member of the said Company, unless intitled to Twenty of the said Six Thousand and Twelve Shares, shall be allowed to Vote at or in any general Meeting or Assembly of the said Company by Proxy, and such Proxies shall be Members of the said Company; and no Person shall continue Deputy-Governor above One Year, or be Deputy-Governor above One Year in Four, and Four of the Directors shall be every Year changed; and no Person shall continue a Director above Three Years together, and if any Person shall serve Three Years together as a Director, then he shall not be admitted to be a Director again for the Space of Two Years after. And the said Governor (so to be annually chosen as aforesaid) Deputy-Governor and Directors, are hereby further required Annually, within Twenty Days after the Expiration of their Offices, to make a true State or Representation of the Affairs and Condition of the said Company in Writing, and Sign and Subscribe the same, and to present such Representation at a general Meeting or Assembly, to be Annually held for that Purpose, within Twenty Days after the Expiration of their said Offices, and to State, make up, and Balance the Accompts of the said Company, for the Year they were Directors, and to Sign and Subscribe such State and Balance of the Accompts in the said Company's Books, within the said Twenty Days after the Expiration of their said Office of Directors, to which Books, and to all other Books of the said Company, every Member thereof may have free Resort Three Days in every Week, viz. *Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays*, between the Hours of Nine and Twelve in the Forenoon; and if the said Deputy-Governor and Directors shall neglect or omit to make such State or Representation of the Affairs and Condition of the said Company for the Year he and they were Deputy-Governor and Directors, or to State and Balance the Accompts of the said Company for the said Year, in manner as before directed, then, and in such Case, the said Deputy-Governor and Directors, or any, or either of them, so neglecting or omitting, as aforesaid, shall be incapable of Transferring his or their Shares or Interest in the said Company, or of receiving any Profit thereof, or of serving as Deputy-Governor or Director, or Directors of the said Company, till he or they shall have made such State or Representation, and Stated and Balanced the Accompts, as aforesaid.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That for the raising a Stock of Money for the better carrying on the Working and Improving the Mines of the said Company of the *Mine Adventurers of England*, and for answering the Exigencies of the said Company, and in the first Place for defraying the necessary Charges of passing this present Act, It shall and may be Lawful to and for the said Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors of the said Company, with the Consent and Approbation of a General Assembly or Meeting of the Members of the said Company, duly called after such new Division and Distribution of the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares made in manner as is by this Act required, to call in, or direct to be paid to the said Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, or to such Person or Persons, as they shall appoint to receive the same, any Sum or Sums of Money not exceeding Twenty Shillings per Share; and that all Executors, Administrators, Guardians, and Trustees, shall be indemnified in Paying the same: And in case any Member of the said Company shall neglect or refuse to pay his or their Share of the Money, so called in, at the Time or Times appointed for that Purpose, by Notice in the *London Gazette*, it shall and may be Lawful for the said Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, and their Successors, not only to stop and detain the Share and Proportion of Profit

fit which shall from time to time, out of the Estate or Effects of the said Company, become payable to such Member or Members of the said Company so neglecting or refusing, and to apply the same from time to time for and towards the Payment of the Money so called, and which ought to have been paid by such Member or Members, so neglecting or refusing to pay the same, until the same shall be satisfied; but also to restrain or hinder the said Member or Members from Transferring his or their Stock or Interest, or any Part thereof, in the said Company; and to charge such Defaulter or Defaulters, with the Interest, after the rate of Six Pounds *per Cent. per Ann.* for the Monies so by him or them omitted to be paid, from the time the same were appointed to be paid, until the Payment thereof.

Provided always, That the said Governor and Company may, by several Calls, in manner as before directed, appoint the Payment of any Part of the said Sum of Twenty Shillings, and and at several Times: But the said Governor and Company are hereby restrain'd from calling in upon their said Members, at any Time or Times, any Sum or Sums exceeding in the whole Twenty Shillings *per Share*; and every Call so made and appointed, after the respective Proprietors of the Six Thousand and Twelve Shares have paid in for the Use of the Company Twenty Shillings *per Share*, shall be void and of no force or effect.

And, to the end the said Creditors, by vertue of this Act United with the said Company of *Mine Adventurers of England*, may have full Satisfaction of the State and Condition, Debts and Effects, of the said Company of *Mine Adventurers*, and of the Occasion of their present unfortunate Circumstances, and of the former Management and Disposition of the Estate, Stock, and Effects of the said Company, that they may the better avoid those measures which reduced the said Company into so great Distress, be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors, or the major Part of them, so chosen as by this Act is before directed, shall and are hereby Impowered to appoint One or more honest and able Accomptant or Accomptants, which Accomptant or Accomptants so appointed shall take his Corporal Oath before any Two of the said Directors, who are hereby Authorized and Required to Administer the same to him or them, to well and truly, according to the best of his or their Skill, examine the Books, Deeds, Papers, and Accompts, relating and belonging to the said Company; and to see if the said Accompts are fairly and regularly enter'd, and justly made up, and properly vouched, as well by Vouchers of Right, as Fact; and to fairly and impartially lay before the next General Meeting of the said Company, held after he or they have made such Examination, the true State of the Company's Accompts, with such Observations and Informations thereon, as may to him or them seem most for the said Company's Benefit and Advantage, in the Words, or to the Effect following, *viz.* "I A. B. will well and truly, according to the best of my Skill and Understanding, examine the Books, Deeds, Papers, and Accompts relating and belonging to the Corporation, known by the Name of the Governor and Company of the *Mine Adventurers of England*, and see if the said Accompts are fairly and regularly entred and justly made up with proper Vouchers; and I will fairly and impartially lay before the next General Meeting of the said Company, held after I shall have made such Examination, the true State of the said Company's Accompts, with such Observations and Informations thereon, as I shall judge most for the Benefit and Advantage of the said Company: So help me God." And the said Accomptant and Accomptants, having taken the said Oath, may and shall by him and themselves, or together with any Six of the said Directors, or more, Re-examine all the Accompts, Deeds, Books, Papers, and Vouchers, relating or belonging to the said Company, and the Regularity of such Accompts, Books and Vouchers, and shall make, according to the best of his or their Skill, the true and just State of the Company's Accompts, as it shall really appear to him or them. And the better to enable the said Accomptant or Accomptants and Directors, to make a true and just Examination and Representation of the State and Accompts of the said Company, the said Accomptant or Accomptants and Directors, shall have full Power to call before them any Person or Persons that have made any Contracts, Bargains or Agreements, for or on the behalf of the said Company, and Managed or Transacted any of their Affairs; and any Person or Persons that have been concern'd as Agent or Officer, or otherwise howsoever, for, by, or under the said Company, or Employed or Intrusted to Sell or Dispose of any of the Stock, Goods, or Effects of the Company, by Summons under the Hands and Seals of the said Accomptant or Accomptants, and Directors, to be made to such Person or Persons, or to be left at the Dwelling Place or House where such Person for the most part of his Abode did lodge or remain, within One Year next before the Date of such Summons, and to examine him or them upon their respective Oaths, which Oath any Two Directors are hereby Authorized and Required to Administer to such Person or Persons, touching any Transactions, Dispositions of the Estate, Stock and Effects of the said Company, and concerning any Books, Writings, Papers, or Accompts belonging to the said Company, and touching any Matter or Thing in the said Accompts or Books contained, or thereunto relating; and if any Person duly Summon'd, in manner as before directed, shall refuse or neglect to appear before the said Accomptant or Accomptants and Directors, at such Time and Place as shall be required in such Summons, having no such Lawful Impediment as shall be approved and allowed of by the said Accomptant and Accomptants, and five Directors then present, or by the Majority of them, and which shall

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be then signified, and made known to the said Accomptant or Accomptants, and Directors, at the time of such Meeting appointed: Or if any such Person, having a second Summons, in manner as before Directed, to appear at another Meeting of the said Accomptant or Accomptants, and Directors, shall again refuse or neglect to appear at such Meeting, having then no such Lawful Impediment as shall be then made known to such Accomptant and Accomptants, and Directors, and be by them Admitted and Allowed of in manner as aforesaid, or appearing before them, shall refuse to be Sworn, or to make direct and fair Answers to such Questions or Interrogatories as shall be asked or tendred him; according to the Intent and Meaning of this Act; That then it shall and may be lawful for the said Accomptant or Accomptants, to certify in Writing, by him or them Subscribed to the Directors of the said Company for the Time being, at any Meeting of the said Directors, such Neglect or Refusal of such Person, to appear or to be Sworn, or to Answer in manner as is hereby Directed; which said Directors, or major Part of them, are hereby Impowered and Required, to stop all Payment of any Dividend to be made out of the Stock or Profits of the Estate of the said Company to such Person, and forthwith to make an Order to such Person or Persons as shall be Appointed to keep the Transfer-Book of the said Company, not to admit such Person to Assign over or Transfer his Shares or Interest in the said Company, until such Time or Times as such Person so refusing or neglecting to Appear, or be Sworn, or to Answer in such manner as is hereby before Directed, shall present him or herself to the said Accomptant or Accomptants, and Directors, to be by them Examined, according to the Intent and Meaning of this Act; and any Assignment or Transfer made by such Person, after such Order delivered to the said Keeper of the Transfer-Book, shall be void to all Intents and Purposes; And if it shall appear to the said Accomptant or Accomptants, or Directors, that any Person concern'd as Agent or Officer, or otherwise, for, by or under the said Company, or Employed or Intrusted to Transact and Manage the Affairs of the Company, or to Contract for, Sell or Dispose of any of the Stock or Effects of the said Company, hath not Faithfully and Justly Accounted for all the Stock or Effects of the said Company, Committed or Intrusted to his Care and Management, the said Accomptant or Accomptants, or Directors, are hereby Required and Commanded to Certify in Writing by them Subscribed, the Names of such Person or Persons, whose Accompt or Accompts appear to be Unjust, and not well Warranted by proper Vouchers, and the particular Reasons of their Opinion relating to such Accompts, to the Directors of the said Company for the time being, at a Meeting or Assembly of the said Directors, who are hereby Required and Authorized to stop all Payment of any Dividend to be made out of the Stock or Profits of the Estate of the said Company, to such Person or Persons, and forthwith to make an Order to such Person or Persons, as shall be appointed to keep the Transfer-Books of the said Company, not to admit such Person or Persons to Assign or Transfer his or their Shares or Interest in the said Company, until farther Order from the said Directors, and every Assignment or Transfer made by such Person or Persons, after such Order delivered to the Keeper of the said Transfer-Books of the said Company, and before any Order from the said Directors to repeat their said Order, shall be Void to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

And be it Enacted, That no Person who has any Accompt depending with the said Company, be capable of Transferring, or admitted to Transfer his Shares or Interest, or any Part thereof in the said Company, 'till such Accompts be fairly Adjusted and Stated, and the Balance (if there be any) Paid, or secured to be Paid to the said Company.

Provided always, and be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person who has been Elected, or has Acted as Deputy-Governor, nor any Person who has been Elected and Acted as Director or Assistant in the said Company, at the Time of stopping of Payment of their Bills and Bonds in *March* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seven, or at any Time since, shall be capable of being Elected a Deputy-Governor or Director of the said Company before the Twenty Second Day of *May*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twelve, any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding.

And be it farther Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person and Persons interested in the said Company of *Mine Adventurers of England*, as Proprietors of Shares, Principal Money, Annuities or Debts, by Bonds, Bills, Notes, or other Contracts, or otherwise howsoever, who shall not before the Sixteenth of *July*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eleven, deliver in Writing their respective Claims upon the said Company unto the proper Officer, to be appointed as aforesaid, for the Registering the same, shall Forfeit their several Interests, Claims and Demands, in and upon the said Company of *Mine Adventurers of England*, and be utterly for ever debarred and excluded from the same, and from all Benefit and Advantage thereby.

Provided nevertheless, and be it hereby farther **Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That in case there now is, or hereafter shall happen to be any Dispute touching the Right and Title to any of the said Shares, Annuities, or Principal Money, that then, and in such case the

the same shall not be forfeited, nor be any way prejudiced for want of a Claim to be made or entered thereof, before the said Sixteenth Day of July, which shall be in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eleven; but that such Claim shall be admitted, and shall be as good and effectual to all Intents and Purposes, as if the same had been made before the said Sixteenth Day of July, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eleven; so as a Particular of the Number of such Shares, and the particular Sum or Sums of Money in such Annuities or Principal Money be delivered in, on or before the said Sixteenth Day of July, to the Officer to be appointed as aforesaid, for registering the said Claims, and so as such Claim be made within Thirty Days after such Dispute shall be ended.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a publick Act of Parliament, of which all Judges and Justices, and other Persons are to take Notice.

A BILL for the Relief
of the Creditors and Pro-
prietors of the Company
of the MINE ADVEN-
TURERS, by Establishing
a Method for settling the
Differences between the
Company and their Cre-
ditors, and for Uniting
them, in order to an ef-
fectual Working of the
Mines of the said Com-
pany.